

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
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SUBJECT: JUNE 20 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
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1. SECRETARY VANCE, IN 10-PAGE WRITTEN STATEMENT AND
NEARLY TWO HOURS OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE INTERNA-
TIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, PRESENTED HIS VERSION OF U.S.
FOREIGN POLICY. DON OBERDORFER OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED
THAT SEVERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HOWEVER, SAID THEY FOUND IT
HARD TO SQUARE VANCE'S RENDITION WITH TOUGH ANTI-SOVIET

DECLARATIONS BY BRZEZINSKI AS WELL AS SOME RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER. OBERDORFER NOTED THAT VANCE "MADE NO MENTION OF BRZEZINSKI'S STATEMENTS THAT SOVIET-CUBA ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA COULD IMPERIL STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, NOR CARTER'S MORE RESTRICTED STATEMENTS THAT TENSIONS BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS COULD COMPLICATE RATIFICATION PROCESS FOR SALT AGREEMENT. 'WHEN WE REACH AN AGREEMENT THAT MAINTAINS AND ENHANCES OUR SECURITY AND THAT OF OUR ALLIES, AND IS ADEQUATELY VERIFIABLE, WE WILL SIGN IT,' VANCE SAID SIMPLY. ASKED TO CONFIRM ABSOLUTELY THAT THERE IS NO 'LINKAGE' BETWEEN AFRICAN POLICY AND SALT NEGOTIATIONS, VANCE RESPONDED, 'THAT IS CORRECT.'" OBERDORFER SAID WHILE CONCEDING THAT PRAVDA'S COMPREHENSIVE AND HIGHLY UNUSUAL DENUNCIATION OF U.S. POLICY CONTAINED "SOME VERY TOUGH WORDS," VANCE EMPHASIZED THAT "DOOR WAS CLEARLY LEFT OPEN TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE COOPERATIVE MEASURES" AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SOVIET UNION--AS WELL AS U.S.--WISHES TO SEEK ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS AND DETENTE.

2. IN NEW YORK TIMES, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT BERNARD GWERTZMAN COMMENTED THAT SUM OF VANCE'S REMARKS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT CARTER, "WHOSE RECENT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN AIMED AT ASSURING CONSERVATIVES THAT U.S. WAS NOT BUCKLING TO PRESSURE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH RUSSIANS, WAS NOW TRYING THROUGH MR. VANCE TO EASE CONCERN OF OTHERS THAT TWO COUNTRIES SEEMED ON COLD WAR COURSE." NOTING THAT VANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL ALONG HAS AVOIDED TOUGH LANGUAGE OF BRZEZINSKI, GWERTZMAN SAID SECRETARY'S PERFORMANCE YESTERDAY "SEEMS SURE TO LEAD TO SPECULATION--AS VOICED BY MANY COMMITTEE MEMBERS-- THAT PENDULUM HAS SWUNG BACK TO MR. VANCE'S APPROACH. UNDER SHARP QUESTIONING FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS, VANCE SEEMED MORE FORCEFUL THAN USUAL IN ASSERTING THAT HE SPOKE WITH FULL AUTHORITY OF MR. CARTER AND THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS DETERMINED TO AVOID EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION IN AFRICA AND TO PRESS FOR AGREEMENTS WITH MOSCOW IN NEGOTIATIONS ON TREATY TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS AND ON COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN." TIMES CORRESPONDENT POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH VANCE PERSONALLY SUPPORTED SUBSTANTIVE POINTS IN PRESIDENT'S JUNE 7 SPEECH AT ANNAPOLIS, SECRETARY "HAD NO HAND IN PREPARING LANGUAGE THAT OFFERED MOSCOW CHOICE OF EITHER 'CONFRONTATION OR COOPERATION.' AMBIGUITY IN THAT SPEECH AND APPARENT VACILLATION OF ADMINISTRATION BETWEEN BRZEZINSKI'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT MOSCOW VIOLATING 'CODE OF DETENTE' AND MR. VANCE'S MORE RESTRAINED APPROACH, PUTTING EMPHASIS ON SPECIFIC NEGOTIATIONS, HAVE SOWN CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION."

3. MARTIN TOLCHIN OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT PRESI-

DENT CARTER, "IN SHIFT IN STRATEGIC POLICY," PROPOSED REORGANIZATION PLAN THAT WOULD PLACE NEW EMPHASIS ON CIVIL DEFENSE IN WHAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID WAS RESPONSE TO MAJOR SOVIET EFFORT TO PROTECT ITS CIVILIAN POPULATION FROM HAZARDS OF NUCLEAR WAR. TOLCHIN SAID "IN SUBMITTING PLAN TO CONGRESS, PRESIDENT OVERRODE OBJECTIONS OF HAROLD BROWN, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, WHOSE DEPARTMENT WOULD LOSE JURISDICTION OVER CIVIL DEFENSE EFFORT, AND PAUL WARNKE, PRESIDENT'S CHIEF DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATOR, WHO CONSIDERS CIVIL DEFENSE FUTILE EXERCISE IN AN AGE OF NUCLEAR WARFARE. MR. BROWN AND MR. WARNKE WERE SAID BY AIDES TO BE CONCERNED THAT MORE THAN JUST REORGANIZATION WAS INVOLVED, AND THAT INCREASED EMPHASIS ON CIVIL DEFENSE COULD LEAD TO NEW STRATEGIC CONCEPT: THAT U.S. SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGHT

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AND WIN NUCLEAR WAR." PRESIDENT'S PLAN WOULD PLACE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CIVIL DEFENSE IN NEW AGENCY, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, WHICH ALSO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FEDERAL RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS. TOLCHIN SAID PRESIDENT CARTER, ASKED WHETHER HE WAS NOW STRONG BELIEVER IN CIVIL DEFENSE, RESPONDED, "NOW AND BEFORE." OMB DIRECTOR JAMES MC INTYRE, ASKED IF PLAN WAS RESPONSE TO SOVIET UNION, REPLIED, "IT WAS NOT DESIGNED AS DEFENSE STRATEGY." MC INTYRE ADDED "IT WOULD ENHANCE OUR STRATEGIC POLICY POSITION AS IT AFFECTS OVERALL NATIONAL DEFENSE." TOLCHIN SAID RECENT PRESIDENTIAL STUDY HAS REPORTEDLY SHOWN THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GIVE COMPLETE PROTECTION IN NUCLEAR ATTACK, INCREASED SPENDING ON CIVIL DEFENSE WOULD RESULT IN SOME DEGREE OF PROTECTION. LAST FALL, HE ADDED, PRESIDENTIAL STUDY CONCLUDED THAT 140 MILLION AMERICANS WOULD BE KILLED IN NUCLEAR WAR, LEAVING 80 MILLION SURVIVORS. "WHITE HOUSE HAS INCREASINGLY FOCUSED ON SOVIET'S CIVIL DEFENSE EFFORT AND BELIEVES THAT THIS NATION'S EFFORT TO MAINTAIN OVERALL EQUIVALENCE OF STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES REQUIRES U.S. TO FOCUS ON DEFENSIVE AS WELL AS OFFENSIVE MEASURES." CHRISTOPHER

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